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\$3b drive to end diseases apt to tap Boston area's talent



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Mark Zuckerberg and Dr. Priscilla Chan are donating \$3 billion.

By Priyanka Dayal McCluskey and Robert Weisman | GLOBE STAFF

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It set the Longwood Medical Area and Kendall Square abuzz last week: not a medical breakthrough or the latest big-money biotech deal, but the audacious announcement by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and Dr. Priscilla Chan, his Quincy-bred wife, that they would commit \$3 billion to the bold goal of beating all

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Like Bill and Melinda Gates before them, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, as the couple’s philanthropic organization is known, will bolster the tens of billions of dollars spent each year by the federal government on life sciences, a field in which the Boston region’s universities, hospitals, research institutes, and biotech companies are second to none.

There was a touch of envy that the new project, announced Wednesday, is being launched in the San Francisco Bay Area, where a \$600 million research “Biohub” will link the University of California San Francisco, University of California Berkeley, and Stanford University. How could the Manhattan Project of medicine not be based here? But regional bragging rights aside, the effort will be a huge opportunity for Boston’s biomedical research complex.

Cori Bargmann, a Rockefeller University neuroscientist and president of the new research initiative, said she already has begun talking to scientists in the Boston

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